

Subject: ETAAC Letter

From: Hank <hwedaa@adelphia.net>

Date: Thu, 13 Dec 2007 13:26:58 -0800

To: schurch@arb.ca.gov

CC: Hank <hwedaa@adelphia.net>

Good morning Steve,

Let me start by saying that I fully support the goals of the Global Warming Economic and Technology Advancement Committee. My comments will be limited to support for and expansion of hydrogen programs and all its subsets.

I have reviewed the report prepared by the ETAAC and wish to submit the following brief comments: First, a broad comment. In the Table of Contents, section 4,5, there was no mention of hydrogen or any other fuel or energy source. I would have preferred to see at least a short description of all potential fuels or energy sources even though I remain an advocate for hydrogen and still believe it will be present in the end game due to the vast quantities available in nature. An added caveat could be that I also endorse obtaining it, where possible, from renewable sources, although this is not a necessary condition to proceed. When the oil problems get much worse than at present, we are going to need all of the fuel and energy sources we can find. Admittedly, we have picked all of the low hanging fruit, so our job will become even more difficult than in the past. And not only will it be more difficult, it will be more costly. With oil almost reaching \$100/barrel recently, the price of gasoline will continue to rise. This results in a narrowing of the "spread" or absolute cost differences between hydrogen and oil and other energy sources as well.

We also need to recognize that hydrogen can be used in two ways: as a fuel to be consumed in an internal combustion engine or as an energy source to fuel the rapidly developing automotive and stationary source fuel cells. It does us no good if we only develop the fuel cells and hope that hydrogen will come along too. There needs to be concurrent development. And let's not overlook development of hydrogen storage systems of all types being considered by car manufacturers. Fuel cells often are often used as "back up" power supplies to provide power to a host of products needing small wattages.

California has long held and should continue to play a leadership role. It has been the leader in recent years and we need to continue to spend the necessary dollars to maintain or improve that position. This is the way we achieve economic growth and provide jobs for Californians in the future. We cannot afford to allow other states or countries to take over that leadership role by not providing adequate funding. And we need to take a long term point of view on the various issues raised above, We need to make commitments that go to at least 2050.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these important issues.

Henry W. Wedaa
President,
California Hydrogen Business Council